

In short, the circling beetle is literally "feeling for prey". And the organs upon which it depends for the discovery are the antennae.

LITERATURE CITED.

EGGERS, F. 1928. Die stiftführenden Sinnesorgane Berlin (Borntraeger) (Cf. pp. 342-343).

BROWN, C. R. and M. H. HATCH. 1929. Orientation and fright reactions of whirligig beetles.—*Jour. Compar. Psychol.*, 9: 159-189.

The Dates of Publication of Two Articles on Coleoptera by John L. Leconte, Issued in 1845.

By HUGH B. LEECH¹, Vernon, British Columbia.

In examining the literature on one of Leconte's species, it was found that the original description was cited variously as of 1844, 1845, 1846 and 1847. Since beetles belonging to four families² date from the same article, the following notes may be of interest.

The two papers in question are Leconte's "Descriptions of some new species of coleopterous insects inhabiting the United States", in the *Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History*, Volume I, page 201; and his "Descriptions of some new and interesting insects, inhabiting the United States", in the *Boston Journal of Natural History*, Volume V, No. 2, pages 203-209. Although having a different title, the first paper is in fact merely an abstract of the second, giving the preliminary diagnoses of the species, but not the fuller descriptions and references. The second article is accompanied by a fine plate (No. 18) illustrating the species, and opens with a diatribe against American entomologists who sent their new species to Europe for description.

The title page of Volume I of the *Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History* is dated 1844. However, at the bottom of page 201 there is a printer's signature:

¹Contribution No. 2080, Division of Entomology, Science Service, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Ontario.

²Cicindelidae: *Cicindela audubonii* Leconte. Carabidae: *Calosoma triste* Lec., *C. lepidum* Lec., *Scarites patruelis* Lec., *S. affinis* Lec., *S. ephialtes* Lec., *S. intermedius* Lec. Dytiscidae: *Dytiscus marginicollis* Lec. Cerambycidae: *Lamia bellii* Lec. (= *Plectrodera scalator* Fab.).

"Proceedings B.S.N.H. 22 March, 1845," which indicates that the volume was not published in 1844. On page 200 there is a paper by Richard Soule, Jr., "giving an account of experiments on the juice of Cornstalk, made Sept. and Oct. 1844"; it seems unlikely that the volume was published between that time and the end of the year. Fortunately the *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia* contain records of accessions to the Academy's Library; the second half of Volume I of the *Boston Proceedings* (page 129 to end), was noticed at the stated meeting on September 2, 1845. As the previous stated meeting was on August 19, 1845, we have a fairly good indication of the time when these pages were mailed.

The title page to Volume V of the *Boston Journal of Natural History* is dated 1847. In the minutes of the meeting of the Boston Society of Natural History on October 15, 1845, the following statement occurs: "Dr. Gould announced that a new number of the *Journal*, being the second this year, was ready for distribution". This gives us the approximate date of publication. Referring again to the *Proceedings* of The Philadelphia Academy, we find that in the minutes of the stated meeting on December 16, 1845, Volume 5, No. 2 (really a Part) of the *Boston Journal of Natural History* is listed among the donations to the library. In the minutes of a meeting on May 6, 1845, Volume 5, No. 1 is listed as received.

Thus it appears that the Lecontean species of beetles described in these papers must all be cited as of 1845, the actual date of publication of the abridged paper being not long before September 2. It is unfortunate that the second paper did not appear first, since it contains the full descriptions and their accompanying illustrations; however, we do know that it was published between October 15 and December 16, 1845.

Acknowledgment. It is a pleasure to mention the cordial help of Dr. Richard Dow, of the Boston Society of Natural History. He searched through the older journals not available to me, and provided information from which the above notes on dates of publication were made.